

The Hague 26/27 June 1986

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Statement on South Africa

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1. The European Council is gravely concerned about the rapid deterioration of the situation and the increasing levels of violence in South Africa. The reimposition of the State of Emergency and the indiscriminate arrest of thousands of South Africans can only further delay the start of a genuine national dialogue on South Africa's future, which is so urgently needed if a peaceful solution of the country's problems is to be found. Furthermore extensive censorship has been imposed on the media. The European Council believes that the present policies of the South African government can only lead to increasing repression, polarisation and bloodshed.
2. Against this background, the European Council has re-examined the Twelve's policy towards South Africa. It reaffirms that the main goal of this policy is the total abolition of apartheid. To support the process of non-violent change in South Africa and to emphasize their deep concern about the recent course of events, the Heads of State and Government have decided to take additional action.
3. The European Council has declared itself in favour of a concerted European programme of assistance to the victims of apartheid, encompassing both Community and national action, in order to maximise the effectiveness of Europe's contribution in this field. In this connexion the European Council has agreed on an increase in financial and material assistance to the victims of apartheid, in particular those affected by the disturbances in Crossroads and to political prisoners, including those arrested in connection with the recent reimposition of the State of Emergency.
4. The European Council is convinced that the commencement without delay of a national dialogue with the authentic leaders of the black population is essential to halt a

further escalation of violence and allow negotiations leading to a truly democratic and non-racial South Africa.

This dialogue cannot take place as long as recognized leaders of the Black community are detained and their organizations are proscribed.

In this context the European Council calls on the South African government:

- to unconditionally release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners;
  - to lift the ban on the African National Congress, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and other political parties.
5. In the meantime in the next three months the Community will enter into consultations with the other industrialized countries on further measures which might be needed covering in particular a ban on new investments, the import of coal, iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa.
6. The European Council decided to ask the future UK Presidency Foreign Minister to visit southern Africa, in a further effort to establish conditions in which the necessary dialogue can commence.

*The Hague, 25-27 June 1988*